

AFRD ES&H Operations Committee
71 Conference Room
January 5, 2007
2:00 – 3:00 PM

Minutes

Attendees: Tom Caronna, Steve Lidia, Tom McVeigh, Tom Scarvie, Peter Seidl, Pat Thomas, Csaba Toth, Bill Wells

1. ES&H News and Lessons Learned

- ES&H News:
 - Introducing Dr. Bill Wells – Bill Wells has joined LBNL to manage the efforts to comply with the new DOE safety regulation, 10 CFR 851. In addition, Bill is training to be the new EH&S Liaison for AFRD when Tom Caronna retires in March. Bill was the 10 CFR 851 manager for LLNL, where he also was an industrial hygienist. His previous experience includes United Airlines ground safety, the Navy medical command at Mare Island, and research in pesticides and air quality. He is visiting AFRD work areas and meeting people. He will not be taking on Tom Caronna's role as Electrical Safety Officer – that responsibility is being passed to Keith Gershon. Tom Caronna will continue to be available at least 3 days a week during January –February.
 - PUB-3000 changes: Most of the chapters in PUB-3000 will be revised over the next two months and new chapters are being added to ensure LBNL's policies meet current code and standard requirements. This is being done to comply with 10 CFR 851. Changes approved by the Safety Review Committee in December include: Chapter 1 policy for supervisor walkthroughs, Chapter 10 Construction Safety, and Chapter 12 Fire Prevention and Protection. These changes will be appearing on the EH&S website soon. Most of the changes do not affect the way we do things – they just document existing practices. We will be inviting some of the chapter authors to our future safety meetings to discuss the changes.
 - Performance Year changes: In recent years, the Self-Assessment Performance Year has been the same as the PRD review period – July 1 – June 30. Performance Year 07 has been shifted to correspond to the Fiscal Year, October 1 – September 30. That means that the period of July 1 – September 30, 2006 was just for practice, and we have a second chance to improve our performance.
 - Supervisor Safety Plan reports for what is now the first quarter of Performance Year 2007 (October 1 – December 31, 2006) are now

due. I will be sending the forms to each Program Safety Coordinator soon so you can start collecting information on the Supervisor Safety Plan activities in your Program.

- Lessons Learned:

The following items have been added to the Lessons Learned website:

- Mercury thermometer exchange program – If you would like to exchange a mercury thermometer for a non-mercury thermometer, please contact Betsy MacGowan. The purpose is to prevent the hazard of cleaning up a mercury spill if a thermometer is broken.
- UL warns of counterfeit extension cords, power strips, surge protectors, and current traps – The Underwriters Laboratories “UL” mark is supposed to indicate that the product has been independently tested and found to be safe for its intended use. Unfortunately, it is very easy for manufacturers to stamp a “UL” mark on products that have not actually been tested. Recently, Underwriters Laboratories has posted a warning that products coming from China with the brand name “My Helper” may have fake “UL” marks. There are probably other companies doing this that haven’t been caught yet. LBNL personnel are encouraged to purchase electrical products that have been tested by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) such as UL. Tom Caronna and Keith Gershon have lists of the acceptable NRTLs. To improve the likelihood that your equipment has actually been tested, buy from a known reputable vendor. Equipment that has not been tested by an NRTL for the intended use must go through the LBNL electrical equipment acceptance process. If you have equipment that needs to be tested, please contact Keith Gershon.
- Fiberglass -- Supercon occasionally needs to pull cables in sleeving material that contains fiberglass. Betsy MacGowan evaluated the process and took air samples, and found that our existing processes are safe. If anyone else is planning to do work that may release fiberglass particles into the air, please contact Betsy for an evaluation. Some old heat tapes have fiberglass jackets. If they are in good condition and in normal use, it is unlikely that they will release enough particles to be of concern. If the heat tapes or jackets are degraded, they should be taken out of service and replaced. Fiberglass does not provide a dielectric barrier.
- Lockout/Tagout audit –Tom Caronna conducted an audit of LOTO at LBNL. He noted that AFRD is doing a good job and urged us to keep up the good work. Having posted LOTO procedures will be important in future audits. We also need to keep up with our interlock test schedules.
- Fire extinguishers – Fire extinguishers in buildings should be mounted on the wall. This protects them from accidental release

and makes them easier to find in an emergency. If you have any fire extinguishers in your areas that are sitting loose, please contact Fire Marshall Gary Piermattei.

2. **QUEST is coming** – February will be QUEST month for all AFRD Programs except ALS Accelerator Physics. January is the time to meet with your Program Head and get your teams organized. We are going back to the geographic team approach this year for QUEST. (Supervisors who participate in a QUEST inspection may count it as a Supervisor Walkthrough for their Supervisor Safety Plan). The QUEST Guide with the checklists, forms, and instructions is posted on the AFRD website.

3. **Program Safety Coordinator Status Reports & Forum**

- **CBP** – An AHD is being written for the fiberoptic laser system in Bldg. 71. Joel Fajans' equipment has been consolidated into a smaller area. Faye Mitschang is working on identifying funding to move the Fajans equipment to campus.
- **IBT** – Thomas Schenkel is getting ready to try the microwave power supply. There are some circuit breakers being used as power switches in Old Town. Tom Caronna may be able to find some funding to provide power switches to areas that are using circuit breakers for this purpose.
- **Fusion** – The shielding wall installed in 58A for the RTA experiment is being taken down. It would be good to get this job completed quickly because the work impacts adjacent experiments.
- **LOASIS** -- The lab extension on the lower level will be under construction for the next month or two. The noise may bother the students working in nearby offices above the construction area.
- **ALS** – There have been problems with a new power supply that was installed for the top-off mode upgrade. Half of the power supply blew up when it was energized (there was no damage to other equipment or injuries). They also discovered that a crash off that was supposed to de-energize the bend magnets didn't work because it was bypassed years ago. (This is a reminder as to why it is important to not bypass safety systems without proper authorization, documentation, and alternative controls. "Temporary" bypasses, when forgotten, become permanent hazards.) The new switching power supplies are noisy. They emit a high-pitched buzz. The noise level needs to be evaluated.

Next Meeting:

February 2, 2:00 PM, Bldg. 71 Conference Room – QUEST Kick-off